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SOURCE Kwang-ming Jih-pao.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL OF CHINA
APPROVES REGULATIONS OF SUBURBAN LAND REFORM ACT

The 58th Session of the Government Administration Council of the Central People's government has approved the following regulations on suburban land reform in China.

1. To facilitate construction of cities and the development of commerce and industries, with due consideration to the special conditions of suburban farms, and in accord with Article 35 of the Land Reform Act of the People's Republic of China, these regulations are enacted.
2. Public announcement of the regulations for land reform in suburban areas and in areas set aside for industrial construction shall be made after having secured prior approval from the Military and Administrative Committee of each regional administrative area. For the five provinces of North China, approval prior to public announcement shall be secured from the proper provincial people's government.

Before carrying out the provisions of this Suburban Land Reform Act in any suburban area, the municipal government, taking into consideration the special conditions in that area, shall recommend to, and secure approval from, the Military and Administrative Committee of the regional administrative area. For the provinces of North China, prior approval shall be obtained from the proper provincial people's government.

3. In suburban areas, the confiscation of a landlord's land, livestock, farm implements, surplus foods and dwellings, shall be done in accordance with Article 2 of the Land Reform Act. Other wealth of the landlord shall not be subject to confiscation.

4. Farm lands, or uncultivated land in suburbs owned by ancestral halls, religious organizations, educational institutions, or other organizations, shall be requisitioned in accordance with Article 3 of the Land Reform Act.

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5. Farm land, or uncultivated land in the suburbs, and dwellings presently occupied by farmers, but owned by business or industrial firms, shall be requisitioned in accordance with Article 4 of the Land Reform Act. Other wealth or legal enterprises in suburban areas, such as personal homes, industrial sites, warehouses, and other property useful to production must be protected.

6. Personnel of the Revolutionary Army, families of heroes, workers, government employees, businessmen, shopkeepers and others, who because of other activities, or inability to work, have rented their small holdings in the suburbs, shall be treated in accordance with Article 5 of the Land Reform Act.

7. Suburban farm land owned by wealthy farmers shall be treated in accordance with Article 6 of the Land Reform Act.

8. Suburban lands and other wealth owned by middle-class (including well-to-do middle-class) farmers, poor farmers, and hired farm hands, shall be protected.

9. The suburban farm lands acquired by confiscation or requisition are owned by the government, and shall be administered by each municipal government. Through the Hsiang Peasants Association in accordance with Articles 11 and 12 of the Land Reform Act, these lands together with other government-owned suburban land shall be distributed fairly and equally to the landless farmers for cultivation.

All confiscated implements, livestock foodstuffs, and other productive necessities shall be turned over to the Hsiang Peasants Association. All such material shall be fairly and equally distributed to needy farmers for capital to be used in aiding them to produce.

All confiscated buildings except large structures and buildings in scenic areas, which are not suitable for peasant use and should be retained under government control, shall be distributed to needy farmers to solve their housing needs.

All those who have no income, or only small incomes insufficient for their daily livelihood, shall be treated as farmers and given an equal share of land for cultivation in order to provide for their livelihood.

10. In the distribution of confiscated land and properties to the landless and needy farmers, Article 13 of the Land Reform Act shall be followed in deciding the question of equality.

11. All suburban mechanized farms, or farms using progressive methods of cultivation, all agricultural experiment stations, truck farms, fruit orchards, and others of that nature shall be left undisturbed for continuous operations by their original owners and operators, regardless of whether or not the ownership changes.

12. All cultivators of government-owned land in suburban areas shall pay no rent except the taxes to the government. The cultivators shall not be allowed to rent, sell such land, or let it go wild. Cultivators shall return the land to the government when they can no longer cultivate it.

13. In repossessing suburban land owned by the government for city development or other necessary purposes, the government shall arrange to resettle the farmers in other proper areas and compensate them fairly for all improvements such as wells, trees, etc. Anyone desiring to use government-owned land, buildings, factories, or other structures in suburban areas shall petition the municipal government and shall follow all the proper legal procedures. These procedures shall be detailed separately.

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14. In the requisitioning of suburban land owned by private concerns for city development, the government shall compensate the owner with a fair price or with government-owned land of equal quality and value. The government shall arrange to resettle the cultivators of the land in proper areas and compensate them fairly for the loss of improvements made on the land and for other losses occasioned by the move.

15. All suburban productive but uncultivated land not required for city development or ancient monuments shall, with the approval of the municipal government, be distributed to the landless farmers for cultivation. The productive but previously not cultivated land shall be exempted from taxes from one to 3 years.

16. To strengthen the leadership of the Central People's government in regard to suburban land reform, during the execution of the reform, Suburban Land Reform Committees and Ch'u Land Reform Committees based on the ch'u areas shall be formed in accordance with Article 28 of the Land Reform Act.

17. After the completion of suburban land reform, the municipal government shall issue to the cultivators of government-owned land certificates of usage which state the right of the cultivator to use the land. Certificates of ownership shall be issued to the farm owners stating their rights of ownership to their land. All other documents in regard to land titles in suburban areas prior to the execution of suburban land reform shall be declared void.

18. Before a public announcement is made of the date for executing the suburban land reform by the municipal government, prior approval shall be obtained from the Military and Administrative Committee of the regional administrative area or the provincial people's government.

19. After publishing the date and provisions of the Suburban Land Reform Act, the municipal government shall submit a study of the conditions in regard to the special features of its suburban area, together with a plan for carrying out the reform in accordance with provisions of the Land Reform Act, to the Military and Administrative Committee of the regional administrative area for approval, before beginning to effect the reforms.

20. All rulings concerning suburban land reform shall be based on the provisions of this act. Any questions not covered by the above provisions shall be treated in accordance with the Land Reform Act.

21. The provisions of this act shall be published after having been approved by the Government Administration Council of the Central People's government.

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